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Eur päisches  
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## COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☐ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: 2

## REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
P,X	US 6 459 757 B1 (LACEY JOSEPH J) 1 October 2002 (2002-10-01) * column 3, line 32 - column 3, line 51 * * column 4, line 30 - column 4, line 52 * * column 4, line 63 - column 6, line 4 * * claims 1,3,5,10,12,15,17; figures 2,4 * ---	1-3,5-7	A61B6/03
X	US 6 416 218 B1 (CHEUNG LIM) 9 July 2002 (2002-07-09) * column 5, line 35 - column 5, line 60 * * column 6, line 38 - column 6, line 67 * * column 8, line 45 - column 8, line 57 * * figures 3B,7 * ---	1-7	
X	US 6 370 881 B1 (MAYDANICH FYODOR) 16 April 2002 (2002-04-16)	1,5-7	
A	* column 1, line 34 - column 1, line 59 * * column 2, line 53 - column 2, line 56 * * column 3, line 16 - column 3, line 31 * * column 4, line 11 - column 4, line 28 * * claims 1,4-8; figure 3 * ---	2-4,8-10	
A	US 6 249 563 B1 (GRAVES BRIAN J ET AL) 19 June 2001 (2001-06-19) * column 3, line 61 - column 6, line 17; figures 3-7 * ---	1-3,5-10	A61B G01T H01L H05K
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1999, no. 01, 29 January 1999 (1999-01-29) & JP 10 272130 A (SHIMADZU CORP), 13 October 1998 (1998-10-13) * abstract * -----	1-7	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 24 October 2003	Examiner Lommel, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 03 25 4740

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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24-10-2003

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